



# SENATOR VI SIMPSON

SENATE DEMOCRAT LEADER ★ SENATE DISTRICT 40

## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Simpson honored with 2010 Women of Achievement Award**

*Recognition presented for Distinction in Legislative Leadership*

INDIANAPOLIS –Senate Democrat Leader Vi Simpson (D-Ellettsville) was honored last week with a 2010 Indiana Women of Achievement Award by the Ball State University College of Sciences and Humanities. Presented at a reception on Ball State's campus on October 20, the award was in recognition of Simpson's work to enrich the lives of others through outstanding accomplishments in legislative leadership.

"I am grateful for this award and for the privilege to serve our state in the Indiana legislature," Sen. Simpson said. "It's an honor to share this recognition with so many accomplished women who have dedicated themselves to enriching their communities through leadership and innovation."

Simpson's comments at the awards reception focused on civic responsibility and the importance of being politically active. "There is no such thing as choosing to be nonpolitical. By choosing to be nonpolitical you are giving your power away to someone else," She told reception attendees. "In a democracy, each citizen's power lies within their vote. It's a right that we cannot take for granted."

First elected to the Senate in 1984, Simpson has worked to make health care more affordable and accessible for all Hoosiers. She's led the fight to restructure the state's economy so businesses and workers can compete more effectively in the global marketplace and she's been a tireless advocate for improving Indiana's public schools and universities. Widely regarded as an expert on the state's finances, Simpson served as the caucus' representative on the State Budget Committee from 1998 to 2007 and was the first woman to serve on that committee.

In 2008 she was elected Democratic Leader by the Senate Democrat Caucus and became the first woman in Indiana history to lead a legislative caucus. In addition to her leadership duties, she serves on the Senate Health and Provider Services Committee. Simpson also serves on the Senate Joint Rules Committee, the Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee, and on that panel's Insurance Subcommittee.

This is the twelfth year that the college has celebrated the contributions of Indiana women with this award. Past recipients have included a university president, scientists, educators, business innovators, artists and community leaders. Fellow recipients of the 2010 awards were Marianne Glick, Martha Hollingsworth, Roni Johnson, Judge Tanya M. Walton Pratt and Nancy J. Smith.

Also honored at the event were four Ball State University undergraduate students who received the 2010 Perham Scholars Distinction in Academics and Leadership awards.

For more information on Sen. Simpson, visit [www.in.gov/s40](http://www.in.gov/s40) or call 1-800-382-9467.

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